

Minutes
The City of Frederick
Mayor and Board of Aldermen
Workshop

October 7, 2015
3:00 p.m.
Board Room – City Hall

- I. Mayor McClement called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present were Aldermen Kelly Russell, Michael O'Connor, Philip Dacey, Joshua Bokee and Alderwoman Donna Kuzemchak.
- II. Mayor McClement presented the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation and the International Walk and Bike to School day Proclamation.
- III. The September 9, 2015 Workshop minutes were approved 5-0 on a motion by Alderman O'Connor which was seconded by Alderwoman Kuzemchak.
- IV. The September 16, 2015 Workshop minutes were approved 5-0 on a motion by Alderman Bokee which was seconded by Alderwoman Kuzemchak.

V. Workshop

- 1. Gabrielle Collard led the discussion of amendments to Section 608 of the Land Management Code entitled, Parks and Open Space.

Public comment was received.

Staff will work to answer questions posed by the Board of Aldermen.

- 2. Alderman Joshua Bokee led the discussion of the Blighted and Vacant Property Review Board. Saundra Nickols, City Attorney clarified that the Board of Aldermen can pass legislation to form a standing committee.

Public comments were received.

The Mayor will re-institute the Blighted and Vacant Property Ad Hoc Committee with members of the existing committee as well as additional interested parties.

VI. Elected Officials' Comments

Alderwoman Kuzemchak thanked the Mayor for moving quickly with the Committee. She also asked what the City can do to help those affected by last week's flood, suggesting the possibility of dumpster placement. She said that the flooding issue can easily turn into a blight issue and wanted to public request that the City do more to help the neighborhoods effected by exploring having the area declared a disaster area.

Alderman O'Connor dovetailed Alderwoman Kuzemchak's proposal. He said he met with a resident whose house had been flooded three times in 16 years by rushing water in their neighborhood. He said in situations such as these, it's important to communicate what the City is doing to ensure drains are functioning properly and checking areas prone to flooding for infrastructure issues. He stressed the importance of helping the public as much as possible in an after-action sequence and that moving forward there are things that we can look at that may require recommendations that have budgetary or capital impacts.

Alderman Russell thanked the previous members who are willing to participate in the reinstatement of the Blighted and Vacant Property Committee.

Mayor McClement responded in regards to Alderwoman Kuzemchak and Alderman O'Connor's comments and said that we look at every storm differently in regards to flooding. He said that the Department of Public Works looks at all drains and how they are working and assesses what needs to be done. He said the department has identified some problem areas and has plans to fix them. He also emphasized that is the City's responsibility and what responsibility falls with the residents, but noted that the City is looking for ways to assist. He said that the Sanitation Department has been stepping up to pick up additional trash related to the storm, but stressed that there are also limitations on bulk items that they can adequately handle. He said that the City is actively addressing infrastructure issues. The Mayor also noted that Waynesboro Construction has offered a dumpster for downtown residents and business owners. He said that the City can certainly improve communication and also mentioned how well Carroll Creek worked as a flood control project during this last storm.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m.